

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A process for the production of non-flying plastic microballoons, which comprises bringing unexpanded, expandable plastic microballoons, which have been heated to a temperature lower than an expansion starting temperature thereof, and a mixture of a wetting agent and gas, said mixture having been heated to a temperature at least equal to said expansion starting temperature of said expandable plastic microballoons, into contact with each other to cause expansion of said expandable plastic balloons, and then cooling the resulting expanded plastic balloons.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 1, wherein said wetting agent is an organic liquid having a boiling point higher than ~~a heating the~~ the temperature by to which said mixture of said wetting agent and said gas is heated.

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Claim 3 (Original): A process according to claim 1, wherein said expandable plastic microballoons are microcapsules of a thermoplastic resin filled with a low boiling-point hydrocarbon as an expanding agent.

Claim 4 (Original): A process according to claim 1, wherein said expandable plastic microballoons and said mixture of said wetting agent and said gas, both of said microballoons and said mixture having been preheated, are instantaneously brought into contact with each other.

Claim 5 (Original): A process according to claim 1, wherein said wetting agent is used in a proportion of from 20 to 300 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said unexpanded, expandable plastic microballoons.

Claim 6 (Original): A process according to claim 1, wherein said unexpanded, expandable plastic microballoons and said gas are used at a volume ratio of from 100:1 to 100:200.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 2 has been amended to clarify the definition of the boiling point of the organic liquid.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-6 remain pending in the application.